THE MAKING OF ADIVASI MAHASABHA

A History of Adivasi Politics in Colonial Chhotanagpur

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delegates" review meeting on the matters of contesting election, decided to participate in the District Board election in the districts of Ranchi and Singhbhum. The outcome was that in both the districts Mahasabha nominees won majority seats and captured the executive posts of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. In Singhbhum district, Adivasi Mahasabha succeeded to occupy Chairman Seat and the post of the Vice-Chairman was shared with alliance. In Ranchi District, special meeting was convened for the post of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and it was chaired by Congress loyalist S.M. Ahmed who was known as Banu Babu. There were two nominees, one was the Bandiram Oraon from Adivasi Mahasabha and another was P.K. Banerjee, backed by Bihar Congress. During the scrutiny process, the presiding officer S.M. Ahmad cancelled the nomination paper of Bandiram Oraon and declared as invalid. Automatically, P.K. Banerjee was elected as Chairman of the Board. Ignace Beck mentioned in his book that:

It was, indeed, a pre-planned plot as they saw no chance whatever if there were to be a contest. This is another instance of exploitation of the Adivasis by the Non-Adivasi, but this time in the political field.

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